

Missouri Department of dnr.mo.gov
NATURAL RESOURCES
Michael L. Parson, Governor Carol S. Comer, Director

December 17, 2019

Ms. Jamie Bernard-Drakey
U.S. EPA, Region VII
Superfund Division
11201 Renner Blvd
Lenexa, KS 66219

Dear Ms. Bernard-Drakey:

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources (Department), Environmental Remediation Program's Superfund Site Assessment Unit has completed a Pre-CERCLA Screening Investigation Report for the Fantastic Caverns site under the Superfund Combined Cooperative Program. As per the grant requirements, an electronic copy of the report is enclosed. The Department does not recommend inclusion of Fantastic Caverns as an active site in the SEMS database, or further assessment of the site under CERCLA at this time as the site is being addressed under state oversight of the Litton System Inc. site through the Department's Cooperative Program. A brief summary of the findings is provided below.

Health concerns were identified at the Meramec Caverns/La Jolla show cave complex near the town of Sullivan in 2014 as part of investigations conducted at the Oak Grove Village NPL site. TCE was found to be entering the cave from a groundwater plume migrating in the karst bedrock. The Department subsequently initiated Pre-CERCLA screening investigations at other commercial caves in Missouri within close proximity to known VOC groundwater plume sites in order to assess potential risk to human health from contaminated cave air.

One of these cave sites, Fantastic Caverns, is a privately owned show cave located approximately three miles north of Springfield. The site is also approximately three miles north of the Litton Systems Inc. site currently overseen by the Department in the Superfund Cooperative Program. The Litton Systems site is a former circuit board manufacturing facility where TCE was released into the subsurface, resulting a plume migrating through the karstic bedrock. The Department conducted monthly sampling of cave air in Fantastic Caverns beginning in late 2016 and identified elevated levels of TCE in toured portions of the cave. The Department shared these findings with the cave owner and Northrup Grumman (successor to Litton), and the parties are working cooperatively under state oversight to address the contamination.



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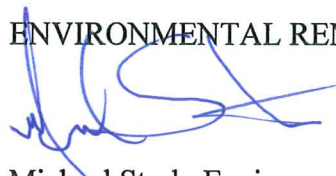
Ms. Bernard-Drakey

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If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me by mail at the Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Remediation Program, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176, by phone at (573) 522-9902 or 1-800-361-4827, or by e-mail at michael.stroh@dnr.mo.gov.

Sincerely,

ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION PROGRAM



Michael Stroh, Environmental Scientist
Superfund Section
Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Enclosure